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EXAMINER

FLETCHER, JAMES A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/437,016

Applicant(s)

MIHARA ET AL.

Examiner

James A. Fletcher

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 15 March 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re page 2, Applicant's Representative states: "The examiner's assertion is respectfully traversed, it is respectfully submitted that an 'editing mode selecting means for selecting a linear or non-linear editing mode' for an A/V server as recited in claim 1 is not 'notoriously well known.'"

As the Examiner understands the terms "linear editing" and "non-linear editing," the former usually applies to tape-based systems, whereas the latter usually applies to disc or rapid random-access media based systems. The Examiner cites Nagasawa (US 6,591,057) in the abstract as evidence that a selecting means for linear or non-linear editing modes is notoriously well known to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, and further cites Nagasawa's disclosure of transferring video data from a tape (linear source) to a disc (non-linear source) in Col 1, lines 44-48 and the multiple capability of his invention in Col 1, lines 40-42.

In re page 3, Applicant's Representative states: "Nowhere in Fig. 4 or in the analysis of Fig. 4 at col. 6, lines 3-21 is there a description of operation in a bound state as that term is defined by the Applicants."

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As the Examiner understands the process of "binding" as defined by the Applicant, an input port is connected to an output port through a switcher, and the selection of those ports as a set is made by an operator

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control. Although the Examiner believes that the assertion stands as written, when the reference is taken as a whole, further support for the rejection can be found in Col 5, lines 15-19 and Col 6, lines 22-29. Clearly, those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention can consider any pairing of an input port and an output port to be a set.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holroyd et al (5,781,435), and further in view of Langford et al (5,206,929).

Regarding claim 1, Holroyd et al disclose a data recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

- recording and/or reproducing means for recording and/or reproducing data (Col 2, line 9 “an editing system”) inclusive of video data and audio data (Col 2, lines 33-37 “Sources of original material...provide material, such as video...and corresponding audio material”) on a non-linear-accessible recording medium (Col 2, lines 49-50 “The editing system stores material in digital form in the storage unit, which allows for non-linear editing”):
- at least one input processing means having a first processing means for receiving a number of commands (Col 2, lines 12-14 “a control console 18 which receives inputs additionally from auxiliary sources such as a mouse 20

and a keyboard 22”) for processing data inputted from outside and for outputting the processed data to the recording and/or reproducing means (Col 2, lines 33-35 “Sources of original material...provide material...to the processor unit” and Col 2, lines 49-50 “The editing system stores material in digital form in the storage unit”); and

- at least one output processing means having a second processing means (Col 2, lines 43-45 “The audio and video outputs also may be provided to another VTR or disk recorder in a desired format to produce an output source for recording the final edited product.” The ability to select a format for the output requires a processing means to provide the format change) for processing and outputting the data reproduced by the recording and/or reproducing means to output the processed data to outside (Col 2, lines 43-44 “The audio and video outputs also may be provided to another VTR or disk recorder”),
- time-divisional controlling means for controlling the input processing means and the output processing means (Col 2, lines 26-28 “The processor unit 12 contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed”) to time-divisionally access the recording and/or reproducing means respectively to input and output data, comprising:
 - switching means having a third processing means (Col 2, lines 60-64 “the present invention allows the editor to...insert the shots directly into the edit, the processor unit 12 performing the digitization of the

selected shots in the background”) for being fed with the data outputted from the input processing means and the output processing means for selectively outputting the input data to the input processing means and the output processing means (Col 2, lines 39-42 “video from the VTR and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor”); and

- control means for controlling at least one of the input processing means, output processing means, and the switching means to perform the processing specified by a control command commanding an editing mode if the control command is inputted (Col 2, lines 57-63 “normally the various types of material are separately logged into the storage unit 14 as a series of digitized shots which are then available for subsequent non-linear editing. However the present invention allows the editor to take shots directly from a linear source, such as the VTR 28, a camera or the like, and insert the shots directly into the edit”);
- selecting means for receiving and interpreting the commands from the input processing means (Col 2, lines 18-22 “The console 18 is the main interface for controlling the playing of source material as well as for performing many of the editing functions”);
- wherein the third processing means controls the first processing means and the second processing means (Col 2, lines 26-29 “The

processor unit 12 contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed and where system information is stored” and Col 3, lines 41-42 “The controls on the control console 18 are used to control the transport functions of the VTR 28” Col 2, lines 60-64 “the present invention allows the editor to...insert the shots directly into the edit, the processor unit 12 performing the digitization of the selected shots in the background”),

- wherein the selecting means controls the input processing means, output processing means, and recording or reproducing means based on the number of commands interpreted by the selecting means (Col 4, lines 1-9 “In operation an editor has available material from the source, such as tape in the VTR 28, and material that has already been digitized from the storage unit 14. The editor from the control console 18 and using the mouse 20 selects the edit-to-it function to open a new edit-to-it file with the appropriate source identification, as described above. The editor selects a viewer as the record viewer and selects a source for editing, which source is displayed on the graphics screen 24 as a tile”).
- Holroyd et al disclose an editing system with both linear and non-linear editing modes (Abstract “an editing system allows an editor to combine linear editing with non-linear editing” and Col 2, lines 57-64). The Examiner takes official notice that a selector for selecting a mode on a device that can operate in

multiple modes is notoriously well known, commercially available, and widely used.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Holroyd et al to include a selector for selecting between linear and non-linear editing modes.

- Holroyd et al suggest operating the editor in a bound state as the term is interpreted by the Examiner from the specification (Col 2, lines 37-42 "The audio from the VTR 28 and the edited audio from the processor unit 12 are selectively provided to the audio interface 16 for output on speakers 32, and the video from the VTR 28 and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor 30"), but do not explicitly disclose selecting an output port in conjunction with an input port.

Langford et al teach an editing system wherein the output is connected to the input so the user can monitor the input signal, providing the binding operation recited by the applicant, as shown in Fig. 4.

Providing a monitor output for an incoming video signal allows a user to verify that the signal being edited is the desired signal, and is a well known, commercially available and widely used function of video editors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a binding of input and output ports for monitoring purposes.

Regarding claim 2, Holroyd et al disclose an A/V server wherein:

- the input processing means and the output processing means each having first and second selection means (Col 2, lines 33-36 “Sources of original material, such as video tape recorders [VTRs], cameras or the like provide material such as video, timecode and VITC material, to the processor unit and corresponding audio material to the audio interface” and Col 2, , lines 39-42 “video from the VTR and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor”);
- the first selection means being fed as inputs with the data inputted from outside and the data outputted from the switching means so that one of these data is outputted from the control means (Col 2, lines 57-64 “normally the various types of material are separately logged into the storage unit 14 as a series of digitized shots which are then available for subsequent non-linear editing. However the present invention allows the editor to take shots directly from a liner source, such as the VTR, a camera, or the like, and insert the shots directly into the edit”);
- the second selection means being fed with the data reproduced from the recording or reproducing means and the data outputted from the switching means so that one of the data is outputted under control by the control means (Col 2, lines 39-42 “video from the VTR and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor”).

Regarding claim 3, Holroyd et al disclose an A/V server comprising:

- external reproducing means (Col 2, lines 33-35 “Sources of original material, such as video tape recorders [VTRs], cameras or the like, provide material, such as video...to the processor unit”);
- the control means performing control so that, when a control command specifying the pre-set editing mode is inputted, the data reproduced from the external reproducing means is inputted to the input processing means (Col 4, lines 25-28 “When the editor indicates the in-point for the shot, the processor unit records, i.e., digitizes, the shot starting with the handle prior to the in-point into the storage unit”) and outputted to the switching means (Col 4, lines 35-36 “The shot is also simultaneously inserted into the edit”), while the data inputted to the switching means is outputted to the output processing means (Col 2, lines 39-42 “the video from the VTR and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor”).

Regarding claim 4, Holroyd et al disclose an A/V server wherein the control means controls the input processing means so that the data outputted by the switching means will be selectively outputted by the first selection means so as to be re-recorded by the recording and/or reproducing means (Col 2, lines 57-64 “normally the various types of material are separately logged into the storage unit 14 as a series of digitized shots which are then available for subsequent non-linear editing. However the present invention allows the editor to take shots directly from a linear source, such as the VTR

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28, a camera or the like, and insert the shots directly into the edit, the processor unit 12 performing the digitization of the selected shots in the background simultaneously”).

Regarding claim 5, Holroyd et al disclose an A/V server wherein the control means controls the input processing means so that, when the data outputted by the switching means is outputted to outside, the data is selectively outputted from the second selection means (Col 5, lines 13-15 “if the source control function is turned OFF, then when the edit-to-it source is accessed, only the already digitized shots are available for the edit”).

Regarding claim 6, Holroyd et al disclose an A/V server wherein:

- external reproducing means (Col 2, lines 33-35 “Sources of original material, such as video tape recorders [VTRs], cameras or the like, provide material...to the processor unit”);
- the control means on reception of a control command specifying the pre-set editing mode controlling the output processing means so that the data recorded on the recording medium will be outputted from the output processing means (Col 3, lines 13-14 “When the edit is viewed, the video and audio from the material files of the original shots are played”), the control means also controlling the input processing means, output reprocessing means and the switching means (Col 2, lines 57-63 “normally the various types of material are separately logged into the storage unit 14 as a series of digitized shots which are then available for subsequent non-linear editing. However the present invention allows the editor to take shots directly from a

linear source, such as the VTR 28, a camera or the like, and insert the shots directly into the edit") so that the reproduced data reproduced from a pre-set first editing point will be inputted from the input processing means to the switching means (Col 63-64 "the processor unit performing the digitization of the selected shots in the background simultaneously") and further outputted from the switching means to the output processing means and from the second selection means (Col 1, lines 34-35 "The shot is then included into the edit while simultaneously being recorded into mass storage"), the data recorded on the recording medium being outputted from a pre-set second editing point from the output processing means (Col 4, lines 62-64 "All of the edit after the original in-point on the record viewer is moved to be after the out-point of the new shot from the tape").

Regarding claim 7, Holroyd et al disclose an A/V server comprising:

- external reproducing means (Col 2, lines 33-35 "Sources of original material, such as video tape recorders [VTRs], cameras or the like, provide material...to the processor unit");
- the control means on reception of a control command specifying the pre-set editing mode controlling the input processing means, output processing means and the switching means so that the data reproduced from the external reproducing means will be inputted from the input processing means to the switching means (Col 2, lines 57-61 "normally the various types of material are separately logged into the storage unit...However the present

invention allows the editor to take shots directly from a linear source” and Col 2, lines 34-35 “Sources of original material, such as video tape recorders [VTRs], cameras, or the like, provide material...to the processor unit”) and further outputted from the switching means to the output processing means and from the second selection means, the control means also controlling the output processing means so that the data recorded on the recording and/or reproducing means will be outputted from the pre-set first editing point from the output processing means, the control means also controlling the input processing means, output processing means and the switching means so that the data reproduced from the external reproducing means from a pre-set second editing point will be inputted to the switching means and so that the data will be outputted from the switching means to the output processing means so as to be outputted from the second selection means (Col 3, lines 13-14 “When the edit is viewed, the video and audio from the material files of the original shots are played”).

Regarding claim 8, Holroyd et al disclose a data recording and/or reproducing method for recording and/or reproducing data using a data recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

- recording and/or reproducing means for recording and/or reproducing data inclusive of video data and audio data on a non-linear accessible recording medium (Col 2, lines 49-50 “The editing system stores material in digital form in the storage unit, which allows for non-linear editing”);

- at least one input processing means having a first processing means for receiving a number of commands (Col 2, lines 12-14 “a control console 18 which receives inputs additionally from auxiliary sources such as a mouse 20 and a keyboard 22”), for processing data inputted from outside and for outputting to outside the processed data to the recording and/or reproducing means (Col 2, lines 33-42 “Sources of original material, such as video-tape recorders [VTRs], cameras or the like, provide material, such as video...to the processor unit and corresponding audio material to the audio interface. The audio from the VTR and the edited audio from the processor unit are selectively provided to the audio interface for output on speakers, and the video from the VTR and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor”); and
- at least one output processing means having a second processing means (Col 2, lines 43-45 “The audio and video outputs also may be provided to another VTR or disk recorder in a desired format to produce an output source for recording the final edited product.” The ability to select a format for the output requires a processing means to provide the format change) for processing the data reproduced by the recording and/or reproducing means to output the processed data to outside (Col 2, lines 43-44 “The audio and video outputs also may be provided to another VTR or disk recorder”); and
- time divisional controlling means for controlling the input processing means and the output processing means (Col 2, lines 26-28 “The processor unit 12

contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed") to time-divisionally access the recording and/or reproducing means respectively to input and output data, and

- selecting means for receiving and interpreting the commands from the input processing means, wherein the selecting means controls the input processing means, the output processing means, and the recording and/or reproducing means based on the number of commands interpreted by the selecting means (Col 2, lines 26-29 "The processor unit 12 contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed and where system information is stored" and Col 3, lines 41-42 "The controls on the control console 18 are used to control the transport functions of the VTR 28" Col 2, lines 60-64 "the present invention allows the editor to...insert the shots directly into the edit, the processor unit 12 performing the digitization of the selected shots in the background"); and;
- the method comprising:
 - a first step of receiving, as input, a control command specifying a pre-set editing mode (Col 1, lines 30-62 "An editor selects an in-point on an edit and an in-point on the source indicating the beginning of a shot");
 - a second step of specifying the input processing means and the output processing means as processing means for executing the control command (Col 2, lines 33-35, "Sources of original material, such as video tape recorders [VTRs], cameras, or the like, provide material...to

the processor unit" and Col 2, lines 57-62 "normally the various types of material are separately logged into the storage unit 14 as a series of digitized shots which are then available for subsequent non-linear editing. However the present invention allows the editor to take shots directly from a linear source, such as the VTR 28, a camera or the like, and insert the shots directly into the edit");

- a third step of outputting, from the specified output processing means, the data fed to the specified input processing means as input and reproduced from the recording and/or reproducing means from the editing point information up to a first editing point (Col 4, lines 43-44 "Where the original source is used, the VTR prerolls and then starts playing");
- a fourth step of outputting the data, inputted to the input processing means, to the switching means connected between the input processing means and the output processing means, for a domain from the first editing point to a second editing point, and of outputting the data from the switching means to the specified output processing means (Col 4, lines 44-48 "when the source in-point is reached the video, audio, timecode, and/or VITC are recorded as the edit is performed. When the editor...indicates the end of the shoot, the recording stops and that point becomes the out-point for the shot");

- a fifth step of outputting the data outputted at the fourth step to outside (Col 3, lines 12-13 "When the edit is viewed, the video and audio from the material files of the original shots are played"), and;
 - a sixth step of outputting the data reproduced from the recording and/or reproducing means from the second editing step from the output processing means (Col 4, lines 62-64 "All of the edit after the original in-point on the record viewer is moved to be after the out-point of the new shot from the tape");
- wherein the control means cause concerted operation of respective parts of the input processing means, output processing means, and switching means on the basis of the control command (Col 4, lines 1-9 "In operation an editor has available material from the source, such as tape in the VTR 28, and material that has already been digitized from the storage unit 14. The editor from the control console 18 and using the mouse 20 selects the edit-to-it function to open a new edit-to-it file with the appropriate source identification, as described above. The editor selects a viewer as the record viewer and selects a source for editing, which source is displayed on the graphics screen 24 as a tile").
- Holroyd et al disclose an editing system with both linear and non-linear editing modes (Abstract "an editing system allows an editor to combine linear editing with non-linear editing" and Col 2, lines 57-64). The Examiner takes official notice that a selector for selecting a mode on a device that can operate in

multiple modes is notoriously well known, commercially available, and widely used.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Holroyd et al to include a selector for selecting between linear and non-linear editing modes.

- Holroyd et al suggest operating the editor in a bound state as the term is interpreted by the Examiner from the specification (Col 2, lines 37-42 "The audio from the VTR 28 and the edited audio from the processor unit 12 are selectively provided to the audio interface 16 for output on speakers 32, and the video from the VTR 28 and the edited video material also are selectively provided by the processor unit as a video output to a video monitor 30"), but do not explicitly disclose selecting an output port in conjunction with an input port.

Langford et al teach an editing system wherein the output is connected to the input so the user can monitor the input signal, providing the binding operation recited by the applicant, as shown in Fig. 4.

Providing a monitor output for an incoming video signal allows a user to verify that the signal being edited is the desired signal, and is a well known, commercially available and widely used function of video editors.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a binding of input and output ports for monitoring purposes.

Regarding claim 9, please see examiner's remarks regarding claim 8.

Further regarding claim 9, Holroyd et al disclose a data recording and/or reproducing method for recording and/or reproducing data using a data recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

- time-divisional controlling means for controlling the input processing means and the output processing means (Col 2, lines 26-28 "The processor unit 12 contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed") to time-divisionally access the recording and/or reproducing means respectively to input and output data,
- selecting means for receiving and interpreting the commands from the input processing means, wherein the selecting means controls the input processing means, the output processing means, and the recording and/or reproducing means based on the commands interpreted by the selecting means (Col 2, lines 26-29 "The processor unit 12 contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed and where system information is stored" and Col 3, lines 41-42 "The controls on the control console 18 are used to control the transport functions of the VTR 28" Col 2, lines 60-64 "the present invention allows the editor to...insert the shots directly into the edit, the processor unit 12 performing the digitization of the selected shots in the background"); the method comprising:
 - a third step of outputting the data, fed to the specified input processing means and inputted to the input processing means, up to a first editing

- point from the editing point information, to the switching means connected between the input processing means and the output processing means (Col 4, lines 43-44 "Where the original source is used, the VTR prerolls and then starts playing"), outputting the data by the switching means to the specified output processing means and of outputting the data from the output processing means (Col 4, lines 14-15 "video from the source is displayed on the monitor");
- a fifth step of outputting from the second editing point the data, inputted to the specified input processing means, to the switching means connected between the input processing means and the output processing means (Col 4, lines 62-64 "All of the edit after the original in-point on the record viewer is moved to be after the out-point of the new shot from the tape"), outputting the data by the switching means to the specified output processing means and of outputting the data from the output processing means (Col 4, lines 14-15 "video from the source is displayed on the monitor");
 - wherein concerted operation of respective parts of the input processing means, the output processing means, and the switching means is caused on the basis of the control command (Col 2, lines 26-29 "The processor unit 12 contains the computers where the internal processing work is performed and where system information is stored" and Col 3, lines 41-42 "The controls on the control console 18 are used to control the transport functions of the VTR

28" Col 2, lines 60-64 "the present invention allows the editor to...insert the shots directly into the edit, the processor unit 12 performing the digitization of the selected shots in the background").

Conclusion

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

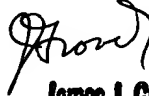
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Fletcher whose telephone number is (571) 272-7377. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:45-5:45 M-Th, first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JAF
26 May 2006


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262 2621